

29 include the order tracking number for identification of the stored order in a response to the
30 message that provides additional contact information.

1 54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the identifying of an electronic
2 mail address includes accessing one or more web sites for locating the electronic mail
3 address of the recipient.

1 55. (New) The method of claim 53 including:
2 upon receiving the additional contact information, sending an electronic mail
3 message to the recipient based on the additional contact information, the message requesting
4 delivery information for the gift, the message including the order tracking number so that the
5 recipient can include the order tracking number in a response to the message for
6 identification of the stored order.

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 13, 23, 35, and 42 and added claims 53-55 to more precisely claim the invention.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his consideration during the telephone interview of April 4, 2001. During that interview, applicants' representative explained that the invention is directed to solving a problem that occurs when a person ("a gift giver") wants to purchase a gift via the Internet and have it shipped directly to the recipient but the gift giver does not know the delivery address for the recipient. As suggested by the Examiner, applicant has added claims 53-55, which are directed to the detailed processing of a computer system that solves this problem.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-52 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Montulli reference. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Nevertheless, applicants have amended claims to explicitly recite what was already implicitly

recited by the claims. In particular, the claims explicitly recite that additional delivery information is obtained from sources other than the user who orders an item.

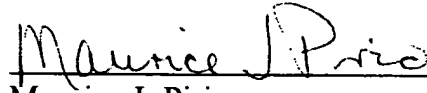
Claims 1-52 are directed generally to techniques in which a user orders an item (e.g., a gift) that is to be sent to a recipient. The claims generally recite that a computer system accesses various information sources to obtain sufficient information to deliver the item to the recipient. For example, a user (e.g., gift giver) may know the name of the recipient, but may not know the electronic mail address or postal address of the recipient. Claims 1-34 recite "obtaining additional information that is sufficient to deliver the ordered item to the indicated recipient from one or more information sources other than the user that are external to the server system," or similar language. Claims 35-41 recite "sending a communications to the recipient based on the contact information" and "when the recipient does not respond to the communications, collecting additional delivery information for the gift based on the contact information from sources other than the gift giver." Claims 42-47 recite "when sufficient information is not provided in the gift order, obtaining delivery information from one or more information sources other than the gift giver." Claims 48-52 recite "obtaining additional information about the recipient by attempting to contact the recipient and by searching various databases of information."

These claims make it clear that the user who orders the item is a different person from the recipient who is to receive the item. Moreover, the claims make it clear that additional information is collected from sources other than the user who orders the item. The Examiner relies on column 13, lines 22-24 of the Montulli reference as disclosing the concept of retrieving additional information that is sufficient to deliver the ordered item. The relied-upon portion of the Montulli reference describes a standard technique of prompting the person who orders an item for shipping information. The claims, in contrast, are directed to an invention that solves a problem that occurs when the person who orders an item has sufficient information to identify a recipient, but insufficient information to deliver the item to the recipient. In particular, the claims recite that the additional information is retrieved from sources other than the user who places the order. The Montulli reference neither teaches nor suggests the concept of obtaining information about a recipient who is different from the user from sources other than the user.

Newly added claims 53-55 are also neither taught nor suggested by the Montulli reference for similar reasons.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:

Postcard
Form PTO-1083 (+ copy)
Appendix
Petition for Extension of Time (+ 2 copies)

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